

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

JANUARY 5, 2000

IN RE:

**BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TARIFF TO REVISE CREDITS FOR TENNESSEE
CUSTOMERS SERVED FROM OTHER STATES**

)
)
)
)
)
)

DOCKET NO. 99-00191

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF NO. 99-00191

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at the regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on April 20, 1999, for consideration of Tariff No. 99-00191 ("Tariff") of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") *To Revise Credits For Tennessee Customers Served From Other States*. The Tariff was originally filed with the Authority on March 22, 1999, with a proposed effective date of April 21, 1999. BellSouth filed this Tariff to reduce the rates in the five fringe area exchanges of Michie, South Fulton, South Oak Grove, South Guthrie and Fork Ridge, so as to be more comparable with rates paid by similarly situated Tennessee consumers.

On October 14, 1991, the Tennessee Public Service Commission ("TPSC") ordered special rates for BellSouth customers located in these Tennessee fringe area exchanges: Michie, South Fulton, South Oak Grove, South Guthrie and Fork Ridge. The special rates in these exchanges are higher than those paid by customers in comparable Tennessee Exchanges; e.g., customers in Michie Tennessee are served out of Corinth, Mississippi, an

FILE
Close
Card

exchange with a calling scope that would classify it under a rate group two categorization pursuant to BellSouth's Tennessee Tariff.¹ Tennessee rate group two residential customers pay \$10.00 per month for local service (including touchtone), Michie residential customers pay \$12.85 per month.

BellSouth filed this tariff to reduce the rates in these five fringe areas to be more comparable with rates paid by similarly situated Tennessee consumers. The proposed rates are below the rate levels ordered by the TPSC and are more in line with rates paid by other Tennessee subscribers.² Further, BellSouth agreed to file specific Tennessee rates in the revised tariff instead of a system of intrastate credits to out of state rates. This inclusion of rates is significant, especially if the rates in other states change.

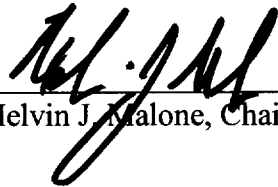
This tariff and the TPSC order only address local exchange rates. Tennessee customers in the five fringe areas still pay out of state rates for other services such as customer calling features. Some of the rates for these services are higher in other states while some rates are lower. BellSouth has indicated, however, that Tennessee long distance rates are applied to the Tennessee subscribers located in the five fringe areas in question.

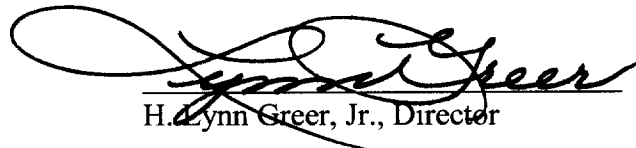
After consideration of this matter, the Directors determined that the discounts provided herein would benefit Tennessee consumers and therefore voted unanimously to approve the Tariff.

¹ Local exchange rates are categorized into different rate groups based on the number of telephone access lines within an exchange's local calling scope.

² Because of billing limitations and budgetary concerns, BellSouth has indicated that it cannot charge the exact rates paid by comparable Tennessee subscribers at this time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT TARIFF NO. 99-00191 IS APPROVED.


Melvin J. Malone, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Sara Kyle, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary